

Howlak Tichum

Phillip Gean David ~ 1943-2020

Phillip Gean David, member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, passed away on May 11, 2020 at his residence in Simnasho. He was put to rest on May 12 at the Simnasho cemetery with military honors.

Phillip was born on May 13, 1943 to Thomas David and Annie Tsumpti in Simnasho.

Mr. David is survived by his wife Linda David, his son Gilbert Brown, and daughters Sheila Spino-Thrasher, Philana David-Caldera (Binky), Darla Brown and Angela Brown.

His father Thomas, mother Annie, sisters, brothers and daughter Philamene David (GiGi) proceed him in death. He has numerous grand children and great grandchildren.

Phillip served in the Navy

frp, October 6, 1964 to October 24, 1968.

He was employed many years as a logger and a sanitation technician till he retired in 2007.

Phillip was a known fisherman throughout his life. His love for fish began with fishing Celilo as a young boy with his father.

One of his happiest moments was with his Calica brothers while their Grandfather showed them many fishing sites along the Deschutes River, which led him to fishing Sherars Falls for almost 50 years.

He loved and appreciated Sherars Falls like home, making many nets to ensure he was prepared to fish for hours.

For years he welcomed anyone whom wished to learn how to make nets to his home in Simnasho.

Laurel Nancy Greene ~ 1944-2020

Born on April 6, 1944 to Francis Greene and Cecelia (Stacona) Greene, Laurel Nancy Greene was the youngest of eight children. She was preceded in death by her parents, and seven of her siblings; brothers Levi, Eugene, Harold, Perry and David; and her sister Muriel (Mico) Chase.

Laurel is survived by her oldest sister Agnes (Onte) Lumpmouth. She expired on April 15, 2020 at the age of 76, to congestive heart disease.

Laurel had physical and mental disabilities and lived in adult-care centers. For the past ten years her residence was Lebanon, Oregon. She loved her caregivers, who took her to powwows, bowling, and visits to the ocean.

She knew and sang Shaker's songs, then learned Western music, and her last years, Gospel music.

We will miss her, and know she is in a place of ever-lasting peace.

Events

(Continued from page 1)

Edmo decided that very day to shift her career path. Today, Edmo, who is Shoshone-Bannock, Nez Perce, and Yakama, is Executive Director of McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, a Portland-based nonprofit that funds grassroots racial and social justice work throughout Oregon, including Native American cultural preservation efforts. "I gave myself pretty much an ultimatum at that salmon feast that if I still had that [former] job by the time I turned 40, it was my own fault. It has meant a whole world opened up to me."

Edmo's story is a testament not only to the draw and inspiration of cultural events like the salmon feast but also to the broader impact such events have on Native American communities and the people who are their lifeblood.

But pandemic, and particularly the cases of Covid-19 connected to the First Salmon Feast, has led to the cancellation of many cultural gatherings, at least for the near term. (The sovereignty of tribes means that they are not subject to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's orders and instead can make independent decisions regarding public health.)

Chuck Sams, who serves as incident commander for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation during the coronavirus pandemic, said CTUIR leaders canceled all traditional feasts and gatherings and recommended the cancellation of all sweat lodge ceremonies as well. It was one of the most difficult decisions that CTUIR leaders have had to make, Sams said.

"We had a number of tribal elders and traditional community leaders who said now is not the time to be selfish," he said.

In addition, the CTUIR implemented numerous measures to further public safety, including restricting public gatherings to 10 people

or fewer and recommending that residents remain in their homes. The Tribe also monitored traffic into the reservation and encouraged outsiders to avoid the area. There have been no new positive coronavirus cases on the Umatilla Indian Reservation since a nontribal employee at the Wildhorse Resort & Casino tested positive in early March.

Partial reopening is now underway on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, with the casino's restaurant, movie theaters, and golf course open for business, and there is talk of reopening the hotel. Sams added that any decision to reopen the casino floor will be based on testing and the advice of public health officials. "We're all going to base this on epidemiology and data," he said.

Dan Martinez, emergency manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, said his tribe decided to allow traditional spiritual leaders to determine for themselves whether to continue hosting cultural ceremonies. To date, most have decided to cancel.

Spring of cancellation

The tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation have seen 22 positive COVID-19 cases (as of late May), all within the past month, and tribal officials believe that as many as 10 of those same individuals attended the Celilo event. "We think it might have been spread from that," Martinez said. "Pretty much all the events have been canceled as a result of these issues," including the June 26-28 Pi-Ume-Sha Treaty Days Powwow.

Martinez made clear that he and other tribal members with whom he has spoken do not fault anyone for deciding to go ahead with the April 13 feast. "We let them do what they need to do in order to honor the fish," he said. Others have been critical of the decision and worry that gatherings will continue. Yakama Tribal Council Executive Board Chairman Delano

Housing approval at Tribal Council

The Warm Springs Housing Authority received the Tribal Council okay to move forward with a rehab project at the Kah-Nee-Ta Hamlets. The plan is also to add a drive-up window at Housing, and improvement to the Housing ventilation system.

The grant proposal was brought

forward by Danielle Wood, Housing director. Council unanimously agreed on the resolution. In other Council news from this Monday:

Emergency Response director Dan Martinez gave an update from the wind and rain storm late last week. The event caused a mudslide on the roadway by Rattle-

snake Springs. BIA Roads was responding, Martinez said.

Meanwhile, the Schoolie Flats area was still dealing with the lack of domestic water. There were temporary showers set up at the area, Martinez said. The showers are seeing a lot of use, he said.

In the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

Note: All proceedings take place at the Tribal Court:

CTWS, Petitioner, vs ESSIE LAWSON, Respondent; Case No JV28-13, JV29-13. TO: ESSIE LAWSON, REGGIE MEDINA, HECTOR SAIZA, WILLIAM STEWART, HEATHER WILLIAMS STEWART, CPS, JV PROS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PRELIMINARY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **2ND day of JULY, 2020 @ 11:00 AM**

CTWS, Petitioner, vs ESSIE LAWSON, Respondent; Case No JV29-13, JV28-19. TO: ESSIE LAWSON, REGGIE MILLER, HECTOR SAIZA, HEATHER WILLIAMS STEWART, WILLIAM STEWART, CPS, JV PROS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PRELIMINARY has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this no-

tice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **2ND day of JULY, 2020 @ 11:00 AM**

BERNADETTE CHAMBERS, Petitioner, vs ZACHARY CHAMBERS, Respondent; Case No.DO26-20. TO: BERNADETTE CHAMBERS, ZACHARY CHAMBERS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **9TH day of JULY 2020 @ 9:00 AM**

CTWS, Petitioner, vs CYNTHIA ISADORE, Respondent; Case No JV80,81-09. TO: CYNTHIA ISADORE, CPS, JV PROS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a PROBATION REVIEW has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to

appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **6TH day of JULY, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**

CTWS, Petitioner, vs ELLEN JACKSON, Respondent; Case No.JV3-19. TO: ELLEN JACKSON, CPS, JV PROS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a SHOW CAUSE has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **1ST day of JULY 2020 @ 4:00 PM**

FELICIA RHOAN, Petitioner, vs CYRIL FANK SR., Respondent; Case No.RO21-20. TO: FELICIA RHOAN, CYRIL FRANK SR., VOS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a RESTRAINING ORDER has been scheduled with the Warm Springs Tribal Court. By this notice you are summoned to appear in this matter at a hearing scheduled for the **30TH day of June 2020 @ 10:30 AM**

J. Saluskin told the Yakama National Review that, in spite of widespread understanding of the threat posed by the novel coronavirus, "many ignored the advice of the medical professionals and our government."

On the Warm Springs Council, Wilson Wewa said it is particularly difficult for the tribal people in the region to cancel ceremonies that honor the animals and plants that are such important sources of food and so central to Native American culture. The Celilo First Salmon Feast heralds the start of each year's fishing, hunting, and gathering seasons. The event is held when large numbers of salmon begin the journey up the Columbia River to their spawning grounds, and it is a longstanding custom that tribal fishermen are not allowed to start fishing for salmon until after the feast. Other springtime celebrations include a feast to honor animals such as deer, elk, buffalo, and bighorn sheep; another ceremony for the nearly two dozen root foods harvested by the tribes; and an event dedicated to fruits like huckleberries and chokecherries.

Most tribal communities in Oregon have longhouses, which serve as spiritual centers and the sites of these annual feasts and other gatherings. Wewa empha-

sized just how much the Covid-19 pandemic has tested the cultural beliefs of Oregon's tribal people, forcing them to decide whether hosting their ceremonies is worth the risk of spreading disease.

"It presents a hardship on us now," Wewa said. "I think our people have adapted through this spring cycle so far, but I know there were some hard-hit longhouses."

Some Native American families have begun holding smaller feasts within their households, reviving past traditions that existed before tribal communities constructed large communal buildings to host their ceremonies. Meanwhile, funeral ceremonies have continued, although they are now shorter and incorporate social distancing measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission. For the most part, though, this has been the spring of cancellation.

Wewa and others also worry about the overall toll of not congregating. "It has made impacts, I think, to the spiritual and psychological and emotional well-being of our people to accommodate being safe for our community and for our families," he said.

Beyond these near-term ramifications lurks another concern: Could ceasing such ceremonies and treaty-protected practices end up jeopardizing those very rights? It is the use-it-or-lose-it scenario that

many Native American communities are all too familiar with.

"Our fear is always that the federal government could come back and say, 'Well, you guys aren't protectors of the natural resources, or the wildlife, or the water, because you guys didn't do anything with your ceremonies,'" Wewa said. "You guys didn't have your ceremonies during the COVID [pandemic], so why should we allow you eagle feathers? Why should we allow you to have a sweat in the prison? Why should we allow you to wear braids in school?"

"That truly is my fear," he said. For Oregon's Native American communities, Covid-19 doesn't only threaten the body. It also threatens the soul.

This is article is Kevin Abonrezk, who serves as Managing Editor for Indianz.com, a Native American news website, and has spent 21 years as a professional journalist, including 18 years as a reporter and editor for the Lincoln Journal Star. He is an enrolled citizen of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

The publisher, Underscore.news is a nonprofit journalism organization based in Portland. Supported by foundations, corporate sponsors, and the public, our reporting focuses on underrepresented voices and in-depth investigations.

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